

REMARKS

This Amendment addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated February 28, 2007. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 14 to more particularly recite the invention intended to be claimed and as discussed in detail below. Claims 8, 12 and 16 have been amended for consistency. The subject matter of Claims 9 and 15 has been incorporated into Claims 1 and 14, respectively, and Claims 9 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-6 and 13 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claim 17 has been added as an analog of Claim 12. Thus, Claims 7, 8, 10-12, 14, 16 and 17 are pending.

In the Office Action, Claims 7 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,699,513 to Feigen et al. ("*Feigen*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,406 to Coile et al. ("*Coile*"), and Claims 8-9 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Feigen* and *Coile* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,845,068 to Winiger ("*Winiger*").

Without acceding to the rejections, Claims 7 and 14 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, deleting, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent to the third port regardless of a security level of said message sent to the third port. Support is provided, for example, at page 8, lines 6-15 of Applicants' disclosure.

It is apparent that the applied references do not teach or suggest at least the above features of Claims 7 and 14. For example, the portion of Winiger relied upon in the Office Action (at pages 7-8) teaches discarding a packet if the packet security classification is not the same as or higher than the security classification of a destination port. *See* Winiger, col. 6, lines 6-9. Winiger does not teach or suggest deleting, by ordering the network layer (CR) of the gateway machine, any message sent to the third port regardless of a security level of said message sent to the third port, as recited in Claims 7 and 14.

As acknowledged in the Office Action (at pages 5 and 7), Feigen does not teach or suggest the above-discussed features of Claims 7 and 14. The remaining secondary reference Coile apparently also does not teach or suggest the above-discussed features of Claims 7 and 14, nor does the Office Action rely on Coile for such teaching.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 7 and 14 distinguish patentably from the applied references. The remaining claims are also believed to be patentable due to their dependence from independent Claims 7 and 14, as well as for the additional features recited in the remaining claims.

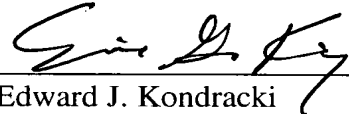
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-907461) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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